



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

January 26, 2006

Honorable Betsey L. Patten, Chair
Municipal and County Government Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Room 301
Legislative Office Building
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 1584, An Act relative to cemetery setbacks and septic systems

Dear Representative Patten:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1584, a bill to assure that the locations of known burial sites or cemeteries are included on septic system plans submitted to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) for review and approval. DES supports this legislation and suggests a minor amendment to make the proposed language more clear.

DES supports clearer requirements to ensure that septic system installations performed respect the location of known burial sites and cemeteries, and maintain reasonable buffers to those burial sites and cemeteries out of respect for deceased individuals and to assure continued access of families and friends to those sites.

DES suggests the following minor changes to the proposed language:

... "The rules shall specify when and where the plans and specifications are to be submitted, what details, data and information are to be contained in the plans and specifications, *including the location of known burial sites or cemeteries within or adjacent to the property on which the proposed sewage or waste disposal system is to be located*, what tests are to be required, what standards, guidelines, procedures, and criteria are to be applied and followed in constructing any sewage or waste disposal system, and other related matters." ...

We believe that this proposed language more clearly brings the issue of the location of known burial sites and cemeteries to the attention of septic system designers and property owners early in the planning process to ensure that this issue is fully evaluated and addressed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment in support of this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call William Evans at 271-3304 or me at 271-3449.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nolin
for Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

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cc: Representative Bickford